

Benjamin Gratz House, (Mt. Hope),
231 N. Mill St.,
Lexington, Kentucky.

Fayette Co

HABS No. KY-56

HABS
KY

34-LEX

5

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA
District of Kentucky

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

BENJAMIN GRATZ HOUSE (MT. HOPE)

231 N. Mill St., Lexington, Kentucky.

Historical Data

Year of erection: "The house dates back to 1814 when Thomas January purchased the property known as Outlet No. 6 from the trustees of Transylvania College and built the house that adjoined his hemp factory."

Built for (first owner): Thomas January

Architect or designer: Not ascertained

Built by: " "

Original intended use: Residence

Notable events and occupants:

In the spring of 1824 Benjamin Gratz became the owner of Mt. Hope, taking there his young wife, Maria Cecil Gist, daughter of Col. Nathaniel Gist. Three of the six sons of Benjamin Gratz were born there as was also his wife's illustrious nephew, Benjamin Gratz Brown, governor of Missouri.

The Marquis de Lafayette was a guest at Mt. Hope and the children made orphans by the cholera scourge of 1833 were gathered here. Also at Mt. Hope was spent the boyhood of the Confederate General Joseph Orville Shelby.

Mrs. Thomas Hart Clay, a daughter by a second marriage, inherited the place in 1892 and about 25 years later Mrs. Jere Rogers Morton, a granddaughter, came back to live in the house in which she was born.

Reference: Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions, by Elizabeth M. Simpson, with an introduction by Wm. R. Townsend. Illus. (Lexington, Ky., 1932.) pp.387-390.

Prepared by Ida B. Guild August 30, 1940.
Historic American Buildings Survey,
Central Unit, St. Louis, Mo.

703 8/17/40